

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5-7, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the Specification as originally filed, and specifically at paragraph [0249] of Applicants' corresponding published application. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 7 are hereby amended, thereby obviating the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 7 is hereby amended thereby obviating the section 101 rejection.

IV. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,870,570 to Bowser (hereinafter, merely “Bowser”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,993,782 to Newberry, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Newberry”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,971 to Oral (hereinafter, merely “Oral”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,536,041 to Knudson, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Knudson”).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“extracting means for extracting a start time and an end time of said program information;

retrieving means which, based on the start time and the end time extracted by said extracting means, retrieves other program information about programs to be broadcast in a time slot between the start time and the end time...” (Emphasis added)

Applicants submit that neither Bowser nor Newberry nor Oral nor Knudson, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, none of the references used as a basis for rejection describes extracting means for extracting a start time and an end time of said program information, and retrieving means which, based on the start time and the end time extracted by said extracting means, retrieves other program information about programs to be broadcast in a time slot between the start time and the end time, as recited in claim 1.

Indeed, the Office Action (see page 5) concedes that Bowser does not disclose extracting means and retrieving means, but asserts that Newberry teaches above mentioned feature, and refers to Newberry, column 1, lines 53-57, which is reproduced as follow:

...The program guide display lists programs being broadcast on a plurality of broadcast channels during specified broadcast time segments and also lists a particular program on both a first and a second broadcast channel... (Newberry, column 1, lines 53-57)

Thus, Applicants submit that Newberry teaches a program guide display that lists programs being broadcast during specified broadcast time segments, but teaches nothing about extracting a start time and an end time of the acquired program information as a time slot, and retrieving other programs broadcast in this time slot.

However, in the present invention, paragraph [0249] of Applicants' corresponding published application describes extracting a start time and an end time of a program and retrieving other programs based on the start time and the end time, which is reproduced as follow:

[0249] The TV program recording preset program 83 under control of the I/O control program 82 accepts input of the user-selected start time of the desired TV program. Whereas the user selects a TV program start time, the TV program recording preset program 83 extracts the start and end times, not the user-selected time, of the TV program in question from the TV program list memory 91 and retrieves accordingly the information about all TV programs to be broadcast between the extracted start and end times in order to create the table 335 of TV programs in the designated time slot shown in FIG. 35. The TV program table thus created is output under control of the I/O control program 82 to the display unit 31 for display.

Thus, in the present invention, when the user selects a TV program start time, the TV program recording preset program **extracts the start and end times, not the user-selected time, of the TV program in question** and retrieves accordingly the information about **all TV**

programs to be broadcast between the extracted start and end times in order to create the table of TV programs.

Thus, nothing has been found in Newberry that teaches extracting means for extracting a start time and an end time of said program information, and retrieving means which, based on the start time and the end time extracted by said extracting means, retrieves other program information about programs to be broadcast in a time slot between the start time and the end time, as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, this deficiency of Newberry is not cured by the supplemental teaching of Bowser or Oral or Knudson.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, the independent claims 5-7 are also patentable.

V. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken

as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

CONCLUSION

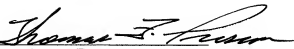
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references providing the basis for a contrary view.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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